



**COUNTY OF LAKE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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October 8, 2024

The Honorable J. David Markham  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
County of Lake  
255 North Forbes Street  
Lakeport, CA 95453

**RE: Response to the 2023/2024 Civil Grand Jury Final Report**

Dear Judge Markham:

Pursuant to Penal Code Section 933 et seq., the Board of Supervisors submits this response to the FY 2023/2024 Civil Grand Jury's Final Report.

Our Board's responses are presented in the same sequence as the Recommendations appear in the Grand Jury's Final Report. We have provided responses to all items for which the report indicated a response was required by the Board of Supervisors.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors extends our gratitude to each member of the Civil Grand Jury for their considerable efforts in preparing this report. Our Board appreciates the oversight role played by Civil Grand Juries in ensuring just governance within the State of California, and commends members of this Grand Jury for dutifully executing their civic role in a manner consistent with State Law.

While our Board cannot commit to implementing every Recommendation presented, we share the Civil Grand Jury's interest in ensuring all residents are well served, and continually strive to maintain and improve services within resource and other limitations.

**RESPONSE TO CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS**

**"CLEARLAKE ANIMAL SHELTER"**

*No response was required or requested of the Board of Supervisors.*

**"HOMELESSNESS IN LAKE COUNTY"**

R1. That the Board of Supervisors investigate if a quick-response county-run Housing Agency would be more effective in finding, negotiating, and procuring available housing space

DISAGREE, will not be implemented.

Explanation: The County of Lake takes housing and homelessness in Lake County very seriously. In consideration of the great needs associated with housing supply at all income levels, development of a Housing Action and Implementation Plan (HAIP) is presently underway. Once published (*expected Q4 2024/Q1 2025*), that countywide Plan is expected to serve as a playbook for housing-focused action in Lake County.

R2. That the Board of Supervisors improve oversight of county-wide homelessness services, including comprehensive use and analysis of HMIS data.

DISAGREE, will not be implemented.

Explanation: Our Board is deeply concerned that individuals experiencing homelessness receive the best services possible, and are connected to any appropriate social, medical and other supports. Lake County Behavioral Health Services is Lead Agency for the Lake County Continuum of Care (CoC), and many County agencies are already engaged in providing supportive services within resource limitations. Our Board's expectation is that these services are delivered at a high standard of quality. Absent new revenue, it is not feasible to commit to enhancing County-provided oversight.

R3. That the Board of Supervisors develop a comprehensive plan to increase low-income housing supply in Lake County.

AGREE, has been implemented.

*Please see R1 response.*

#### **“RECYCLING IN LAKE COUNTY”**

R1. That the Lake County Board of Supervisors should appoint someone to oversee recycling grants.

AGREE, has been implemented.

The Public Services Department will continue to engage State Integrated Waste Management funding opportunities within their scope and staffing and resource limitations. Climate-focused priorities and funding opportunities are also regularly monitored by the County's Chief Climate Resiliency Officer. No additional staffing of this function is presently feasible.

#### **“PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC UNDERGROUNDING IN LAKE COUNTY”**

*While the Board of Supervisors was not required to respond, our Board is responsible for oversight of the Department of Public Works (DPW). Administrative Office staff and our Board have reviewed and concur with the Responses of Public Works Director, Glen March. Our Board expects and encourages effective collaboration between PG&E and the Department to provide for efficient and compliant construction, and appropriate emergency services and residential notifications.*

#### **“QUAGGA MUSSEL FUNDING”**

*While the Board of Supervisors was not required to respond, our Board is responsible for oversight of the Department of Public Works (DPW) and Lake County Water Resources Department. Administrative Office staff and our Board have reviewed and concur with the Responses of Water Resources Director, Pawan Upadhyay, PhD, and Invasive Species*

*Program Coordinator, Angela De Palma-Dow. Our Board appreciates the important work Water Resources staff have done to mitigate the risk of Quagga Mussel introduction in Clear Lake.*

**“OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES” AND**

**“LAKE COUNTY JAIL”**

*No response was required or requested of the Board of Supervisors. Our Board appreciates the invaluable work of Lake County Sheriff’s Office to uphold the highest standards of service possible within resource limitations, and their unflinching and meaningful support of Lake County communities in times of disaster.*

**“KONOCTI CONSERVATION CAMP #27 TOUR”**

*No response was required or requested of the Board of Supervisors.*

**“THE STATE OF CANNABIS IN LAKE COUNTY”**

R1. That the Board of Supervisors increase oversight to inspect cannabis companies more closely and to shut down illegal grows in Lake County.

DISAGREE, will not be implemented.

Explanation: Community Development Department leadership indicate staff have consistently performed annual compliance monitoring site visits to all permitted cannabis-related businesses for the last two years. Inspections, more broadly, are performed to the extent possible within resource limitations. Our Board appreciates efforts of the Community Development Director to augment available funding for this purpose through grants, and effectively partner with Law Enforcement to protect the legal cannabis industry by shutting down illegal grows. Further, it is our expectation processes by which illegal grows are identified will be regularly reviewed and improved by Community Development Department staff.

R2. That the Board of Supervisors consider a portion of cannabis revenues to be used to enforce compliance with cannabis laws.

AGREE, has been implemented. Existing County policy provides for expenditure of Cannabis Tax funds for Code and Law Enforcement activities.

R3. That the Board of Supervisors take steps to protect groundwater overuse by cannabis growers (legal and illegal).

AGREE, has been implemented. Existing County policy provides for expenditure of Cannabis Tax funds for Water Resource-focused activities. As noted by Community Development Director Turner, illegal cultivation, with no regulation of water use, is a threat to the supply and quality of groundwater resources, and must be abated.

**“INDIGENT LEGAL REPRESENTATION”**

*No response was required or requested of the Board of Supervisors.*

**“CONCLUSION OF FOUR-YEAR GRAND JURY INVESTIGATION OF ELIJAH HOUSE”**

*Please see the Continuum of Care’s Response for further information responsive to this report.*

R1. That the County of Lake Board of Supervisors review annually the financial records of the current holder of the contract, as they relate to provision of homeless shelter services in Lake County.

AGREE, has been implemented. The Lake County Continuum of Care indicates they intend to make annual presentations to our Board on, “the status of homelessness in Lake County, services being offered to address it, and an accounting of funding utilized.”

R2. That the County of Lake Board of Supervisors pursue reimbursement from Elijah House for undocumented expenses more than \$200,000.

DISAGREE, will not be implemented. Continuum of Care, Behavioral Health, and County Administrative Office staff have appropriately reviewed associated financial records, and found Elijah House provided documentation supporting a level of eligible expenditures in excess of what was paid by the County. Therefore, our Board finds it is not appropriate to pursue reimbursement.

This concludes the Board of Supervisors’ Response to the 2023/2024 Civil Grand Jury Final Report.

Sincerely,

**LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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Bruno Sabatier  
Chair, Lake County Board of Supervisors

cc: 2023-2024 Civil Grand Jury Foreperson  
2024-2025 Civil Grand Jury Foreperson